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this, we have an account of the schools for the lower classes, both children and adults, the orphan asylums, and the deaf-mute institution. Then each of the eight great hospitals is described, and a list of the private hospitals given. The sixth chapter tells of the almshouses and refuges, for the destitute, for abandoned women, for widows, for worn-out priests, and for the aged. The seventh chapter is an historical and critical examination of the Roman system. The eighth, ninth, and tenth chapters explain the methods of aiding the poor in their homes, by furnishing work and loans, and by the Mont de Piété. The eleventh chapter tells how the poor are gratuitously defended in the courts, and how the prisons are arranged, and the twelfth chapter treats of their *funerals*. An Appendix of nearly a hundred pages is devoted to denunciation of the witty libels of About, whom Professor Lefebvre pronounces to be a liar, a charlatan, and a blasphemer.

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2. — *Lettres sur les États-Unis d'Amerique.* Par le LIEUTENANT-COLONEL FERRI-PISANI, Aide-de-Camp de S. A. I. le Prince Napoleon. Paris: Hachette. 1862. 12mo. pp. 455.

WE attach no importance to the whispered rumor, that in this volume Prince Napoleon has used the name of his aid to hide his own authorship. No man, not utterly lost to modesty, could say of himself what this writer says of his Imperial Highness. We prefer to believe that the volume is the genuine production of a cultivated, observing, and courteous French officer, who tells what he has seen, and gives with frankness, yet without extravagance, his impressions of a rapid journey in the United States. We say a *French* officer, since, notwithstanding his Italian name, his style is pure and idiomatic French. The book is in a series of seven "Letters," — a title badly chosen, as we think, for each one of these letters is long enough for a small volume. In these "Letters," written to a colonel unknown, we have notices of persons and places, of manners and customs, of the conveniences of travel, of the mountains, the prairies, and the lakes, of New York, Washington, St. Louis, Chicago, and Boston, an elaborate account of Lake Superior and its mines, and, in the last letter, a disquisition upon religion in America, with special reference to the voluntary system and to the rise of Unitarianism. Many of the facts in this chapter are curiously accurate, and show that the author had "read up" his topic diligently; but many more are as strangely distorted, and illustrate the folly of attempting to treat what one cannot understand. Indeed, this closing chapter is so unlike the rest of the volume, that we suspect that most of it was prepared by another hand. It is an irrelevant disquisition.

Of the personal sketches in the volume the principal are those of Baron Mercier and Count Montholon, both eminently praised ; of Seward, an optimist, but able and patriotic ; of President Lincoln, about whose fitness for his office the writer leaves us in some doubt ; of General Scott, whose commanding figure and noble service are set over against some personal vanity ; of McClellan and McDowell, of whom the last seems to be preferred by this Frenchman ; of Beauregard and Johnston, their courteous address and military genius ; of General Cass and his son, whose artistic taste and love for things foreign this visitor cannot fail to appreciate ; of Mr. Agassiz, Mr. Everett, and Mr. Sumner, all of them mentioned respectfully ; and of some scientific and practical men, whom the party met in their voyage upon the Lakes. The man who seems, with all his defects of management and temper, with all his patronage of foreigners and assumption of dignity, most to fasten the admiration of our Frenchman, for his intellectual, executive, and moral power, is General Frémont.

A singular feature in this book is, that the Preface by its date assumes to be written before the book, and tells of a work to come, and not of a work completed.

3. — *Des Causes du Rire.* Par LÉON DUMONT. Paris : Auguste Durand. 1862. 8vo. pp. iv. and 133.

Not a few solid philosophical works have already given fame to the publishing house of Durand ; and no one of them has higher merit than the essay on the "Causes of Laughter." Of the author we know nothing beyond this book, and we are inclined, from internal evidence, to think that this is his first important work. It is, nevertheless, the work of a thorough scholar, of a clear and vigorous writer, and of a most acute and original thinker. Though writing about Laughter, M. Dumont never forgets that his purpose is scientific, and that he has undertaken to instruct, not to amuse. There are no humorous turns in the style, no flashes of wit, no marks of that brilliancy which we expect in the books of young French writers. The elements, conditions, and phenomena of Laughter are discussed with a most steady and exemplary gravity. It is really a dissection and history of what the author calls the *Risible*. Fine sayings are numerous enough, but none of them are *bon mots* ; and there is nothing to indicate the capacity of the writer as a humorist.

The first of the eight chapters treats of the difference between the external and internal laugh, shows how one may exist without the other, explains the distinction between laughing and smiling, and gives the